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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

85-1914

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Recpt # Record

24 JUNE 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: House Science and Technology Committee,
Task Force on Biotechnology,
U.S. Congress Meeting (U)

1. On 18 June 1985 at the formal request of the House Science and Technology Committee, Task Force on Biotechnology of the U.S. Congress [redacted] the Legislative Liaison Staff/CIA and myself, OSWR/STD/LSB met with Ms. Cheryl Coodley, Staff Director, Ms. Danielle Snyder, Staff Director's Assistant and other staff members of the Task Force on Biotechnology. Representatives from the State Department, Mr. William J. Walsh, III, and from the Commerce Department, Drs. Ed Shykind and Al Hellman and Ms. Emily Arakaki were also present.

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2. The representatives from the State Department and the Commerce Department presented background information and a history of events regarding the development of biotechnology as well as a description of current programs and responsibilities of their respective agencies. [redacted]

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3. The Staff Director asked me to describe the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in Biotechnology; how the CIA monitors world-wide Biotechnology research, testing, commercialization efforts and the use of Biotechnology in Biological Warfare. I told the Staff Director that since this was an unclassified meeting and that uncleared persons were present, I could not address the questions. I invited the Staff Director and the Staff members who had security clearances to meet at CIA Headquarters to discuss those questions. [redacted] suggested that Congressman Brown be contacted to assist the Staff in obtaining the appropriate clearances. Ms. Coodley will contact us when she and the other members of her staff would like to arrange for a second, classified meeting at CIA Headquarters. [redacted]

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4. [redacted] responded to a question of whether congressional delegations are briefed/debriefed prior to and after foreign travel. He said that if the delegation requests a briefing or if they desire to be debriefed, arrangements can be made. There were a number of other questions relating to the information sharing and communication between CIA and other Federal agencies. Both State Department and Commerce Department said that they depended on the CIA for information and unbiased assessments. [redacted]

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5. The mandate of the House Science and Technology Committee is to oversee non-military research. The Task Force on Biotechnology is currently seeking infor-

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mation that will provide the larger picture internationally. They will be concerned with developing the priorities and shape of the FY1987 budget.

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